

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-07 NSAE-00

USIA-15 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 DODE-00 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 OES-05 AID-05 HEW-06 /107 W

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R 151205Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7751

UNCLAS ADDIS ABABA 0544

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPOP UNESCO

SUBJECT: WORLD POPULATION NEWS SERVICE

REF: STATE 0029621

1. WHILE NOT ABLE TO CONDUCT AN EXHAUSTIVE INVESTIGATION INTO THE USE OF THE NEWS SERVICE, MISSION STAFF HAVE COMMUNICATED WITH KNOWLEDGEABLE ETHIOPIANS IN FP/POP FIELD REGARDING PREVIOUS AND FUTURE USE OF WORLD POPULATION NEWS SERVICE.

2. TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, ETHIOPIAN NEWS MEDIA HAS MADE VERY LITTLE USE OF THE SERVICE. THERE WERE SOME REPORTS THAT THE SERVICE WAS USED AS BACKGROUND FOR SEVERAL ARTICLES ON WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE AND ONE EDITORIAL, BUT SUCH SLIGHT USE WOULD NOT JUSTIFY CONTINUATION OF SERVICE.

3. WORKERS IN POP FIELD RELIED ON THE SERVICE TO KEEP THEMSELVES INFORMED. ALSO, NEWS SHEETS WERE USED AS WALL POSTERS IN FAMILY PLANNING HEADQUARTERS AND FEW FIELD CLINICS. LOCAL FP/POI WORKERS EXPRESSED LITTLE INTEREST IN EXPANDING FUTURE USE OF SERVICE AND LACK OF MULTIPLEER EFFECT SUGGESTS DROPPING ITS PRODUCTION IN CASE OF ETHIOPIA.

4. MISSION HAS NOT ATTEMPTED INVESTIGATE NEWS SERVICE USE BY UN SYSTEM. UN/ECA, WHO, UNICEF, WFP, ETC., ALL RECEIVE THE NEWS

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SHEETS AND DISPLAY THEM IN THEIR OFFICES FROM TIME TO TIME.

ASSUME SEPARATE UN EVALUATION BEING CONDUCTED BY UNFPA.

5. MISSION BELIEVES THAT THE SERVICE IS TOO HIGH PROFIT AND TOO SINGULAR IN PURPOSE TO REINFORCE MANY AFRICAN COUNTRIES EVOLVING QUOTE INTEGRATED UNQUOTE APPROACH TO FP/POP. THE STRAIGHT, SEPARATE POPULATION APPROACH IS ACCEPTABLE ONLY TO A FEW HARD CORE FP/POP ORGANIZATIONS; PUBLICATIONS WHICH DEAL WITH FP/POP IN THE CONTEXT OF DEVELOPMENT ARE BECOMING MORE RELEVANT TO AFRICA'S INTEGRATED APPROACH.

6. MISSION BELIEVES A PUBLICATION WHICH RECOGNIZES ABOVE AND CHANGES ITS NAME AND FORMAT WILL BE MORE ACCEPTABLE AND IN LONG RUN WILL HAVE MORE IMPACT. ALSO SUGGEST NEW PUBLICATION START BY SAYING THAT WE HAVE HEARD AND UNDERSTAND THE THIRD WORLD'S FP/POP STRATEGY IN AFRICA AND THAT WE ARE ADJUSTING OUR SUPPORT TO REINFORCE IT. ELABORATION ON PARAS 5 AND 6 CAN BE PROVIDED IF DESIRED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLICATIONS, POPULATION, INFORMATION MEDIA, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ADDIS00544
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760017-0781
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760156/aaaabxhb.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 29621
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: mendozsm
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUL 2004 by castelsl>; APPROVED <18 AUG 2004 by mendozsm>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WORLD POPULATION NEWS SERVICE
TAGS: SPPOP, UNESCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006